

# DAY & NIGHT

## Shaz Oye

(Radio City,  
Dublin) ★★★★★☆

NAMED AFTER the legendary Radio City Music Hall in New York's Rockefeller Centre, the latest addition to the capital's live music scene is a spacious and airy basement space that is perfect for a chilled and relaxing evening of musical entertainment, in stark contrast to the deafening norm.

Dublin-based chanteuse Shaz Oye (pronounced 'Oh Yay') is a perfect accompaniment to the venue's laidback feel, marking the occasion with a launch gig for her



first album, *Truth According To Shaz Oye*, which is an arresting 10-track affair on her own wonderfully named label Radical Faeries.

Resplendent in a smart and striking pin-stripe suit,

she is backed by a drummer, guitarist, keyboard player and double bassist. Her voice is truly remarkable; a versatile and velvety croon that is full of rich textures and heart-melting soul. It brings to mind such singular talents as Nina Simone and Kate Bush, but is far too individual to be lazily categorised by the limited lexicon of comparisons generally employed by us hacks.

Her songs are steeped in intelligence and insight, engaging in topical issues and the history of human rights in an original and thought-provoking manner. *Easy Off The Trigger* could be the soundtrack song to the shocking spate of gun crime that has blighted our

nation in recent weeks.

Shaz brings us back in time to the Dublin of the 1700s on *The River Wild*, informing us that we've been a binge-drinking capital for a lot longer than the lifespan of the current boozing boom. The most moving song of the night is the closing track of her debut, *Truth*. The lyric "truth hurts, she said, truth hurts", is delivered with stunning pathos and intensity. In a local scene packed with lots of players but lacking originality, Shaz is a refreshing and very welcome new voice. ■

**Eamon Sweeney**